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UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL  
OMB Number: 3235-0123  
Expires: February 28, 2010  
Estimated average burden  
hours per response..... 12.00

## ANNUAL AUDITED REPORT

~~FORM X-17A-5~~

## PART III

SEC FILE NUMBER  
8- 53142

## FACING PAGE

Information Required of Brokers and Dealers Pursuant to Section 17 of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 17a-5 Thereunder

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING 01/01/08 AND ENDING 12/31/08  
MM/DD/YY MM/DD/YY

## A. REGISTRANT IDENTIFICATION

NAME OF BROKER-DEALER: SENTINEL SECURITIES, INC.

ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: (Do not use P.O. Box No.)  
55 WALKERS BROOK DRIVE

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FIRM I.D. NO.

READING (No. and Street) MA 01867  
(City) (State) (Zip Code)

NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PERSON TO CONTACT IN REGARD TO THIS REPORT  
JOSHUA MELTZER (718) 914-1254  
(Area Code - Telephone Number)

## B. ACCOUNTANT IDENTIFICATION

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT whose opinion is contained in this Report\*  
BRACE & ASSOCIATES, PLLC

(Name - if individual, state last, first, middle name)  
PMB 271, 44 NASHUA RD, STE 15 LONDONDERRY NH 03053  
(Address) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

## CHECK ONE:

- ☒ Certified Public Accountant  
☐ Public Accountant  
☐ Accountant not resident in United States or any of its possessions.

SEE Mail Processing  
Section

FEB 27 2009

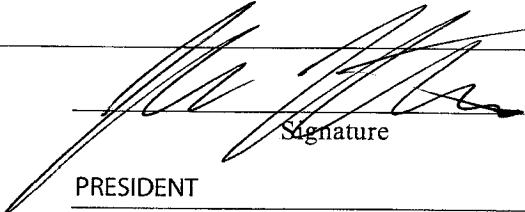
Washington, DC  
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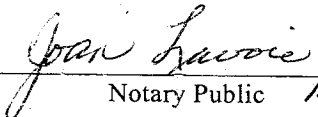
\*Claims for exemption from the requirement that the annual report be covered by the opinion of an independent public accountant must be supported by a statement of facts and circumstances relied on as the basis for the exemption. See Section 240.17a-5(e)(2)

## OATH OR AFFIRMATION

I, JOSHUA MELTZER, swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge and belief the accompanying financial statement and supporting schedules pertaining to the firm of SENTINEL SECURITIES, INC., as of DECEMBER 31, 20 08, are true and correct. I further swear (or affirm) that neither the company nor any partner, proprietor, principal officer or director has any proprietary interest in any account classified solely as that of a customer, except as follows:

  
Signature

PRESIDENT  
Title

  
Notary Public 12/11/09

This report \*\* contains (check all applicable boxes):

- ☒ (a) Facing Page.
- ☒ (b) Statement of Financial Condition.
- ☒ (c) Statement of Income (Loss).
- ☒ (d) Statement of Changes in Financial Condition.
- ☒ (e) Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity or Partners' or Sole Proprietors' Capital.
- ☐ (f) Statement of Changes in Liabilities Subordinated to Claims of Creditors.
- ☒ (g) Computation of Net Capital.
- ☐ (h) Computation for Determination of Reserve Requirements Pursuant to Rule 15c3-3.
- ☒ (i) Information Relating to the Possession or Control Requirements Under Rule 15c3-3.
- ☒ (j) A Reconciliation, including appropriate explanation of the Computation of Net Capital Under Rule 15c3-1 and the Computation for Determination of the Reserve Requirements Under Exhibit A of Rule 15c3-3.
- ☐ (k) A Reconciliation between the audited and unaudited Statements of Financial Condition with respect to methods of consolidation.
- ☒ (l) An Oath or Affirmation.
- ☐ (m) A copy of the SIPC Supplemental Report.
- ☐ (n) A report describing any material inadequacies found to exist or found to have existed since the date of the previous audit.

\*\*For conditions of confidential treatment of certain portions of this filing, see section 240.17a-5(e)(3).

**SENTINEL SECURITIES, INC.**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2008**

# BRACE & ASSOCIATES, PLLC

*Certified Public Accountant*

PMB 271, 44 NASHUA ROAD, SUITE 15

LONDONDERRY, NH 03053-3450

TEL. (603) 889-4243

FAX (603) 882-7371

## Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors of  
Sentinel Securities, Inc.  
Reading, MA

I have audited the accompanying statement of financial condition of Sentinel Securities, Inc. (the Company) as of December 31, 2008 and the related statements of income, changes in stockholders' equity, changes in liabilities subordinated to claims of general creditors, and cash flows for the year ended December 31, 2008 that you are filing pursuant to rule 17a-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Sentinel Securities, Inc. as of December 31, 2008, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for the year ended December 31, 2008 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

My audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The information contained in Schedules I, II, III, and IV, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements, but is supplementary information required by rule 17a-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in my opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

*Brace & Associates, PLLC*

Brace & Associates, PLLC  
Certified Public Accountant  
Londonderry, New Hampshire  
February 20, 2009

**SENTINEL SECURITIES, INC.**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION**

**DECEMBER 31, 2008**

**ASSETS**

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 458,011
Receivable from broker-dealers and clearing organizations	115,952
Prepaid expenses	43,768
Prepaid taxes	28,087
Deposits with clearing organizations	50,000
Deferred tax assets	53,922
Goodwill	(697,019)
Intangible assets at cost, less accumulated amortization of \$304,618 (see Note 6)	1,380,505
Furniture and equipment at cost, less, accumulated depreciation of \$5,714	<u>2,024</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 1,435,250</u></u>

**LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY**

Accounts payable, accrued expenses, and other liabilities	\$ 116,277
Deferred income	135,940
Due to affiliate (see Note 5)	<u>2,452</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>254,669</u>
Stockholders' Equity	
Common stock, no par value, shares authorized 20,000; 2,966 issued and outstanding shares	-
Retained earnings	<u>1,180,581</u>
Total Stockholders' Equity	<u>1,180,581</u>
Total Stockholders' Equity and Liabilities	<u><u>\$ 1,435,250</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

SENTINEL SECURITIES, INC.

STATEMENT OF INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

Revenues:

Commissions	\$ 1,907,442
Interest and dividends	<u>17,170</u>
	<u>1,924,612</u>

Expenses:

Employee compensation and benefits	1,512,480
Clearance fees	71,383
Occupancy costs	48,433
Other expenses	<u>365,113</u>
	<u>1,997,409</u>

Income (Loss) Before Income Taxes	(72,797)
Provision for Income Taxes	<u>30,267</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$ (103,064)</u>

SENTINEL SECURITIES, INC.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>Retained Earnings</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance at beginning of the year	\$ -	\$ 1,283,645	\$ 1,283,645
Net Income (Loss)		(103,064)	(103,064)
Balance at end of the year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,180,581</u>	<u>\$ 1,180,581</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# SENTINEL SECURITIES, INC.

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

### Cash flows from operating activities:

Net income (loss)		\$ (103,064)
Adjustments to reconcile net income		
to net cash provided by operating activities		
Depreciation	\$ 2,857	
Amortization	152,309	
Deferred taxes	26,439	
(Increase) decrease in operating assets:		
Decrease in receivable from broker-dealers	321,645	
Increase in prepaid taxes	(28,087)	
Increase in prepaid expenses	(5,741)	
Decrease in goodwill	7,757	
Increase (decrease) in operating liabilities:		
Decrease in accounts payable, accrued expenses	(118,536)	
Decrease in deferred income	(68,533)	
Increase in due to affiliate	2,452	
Decrease in income taxes payable	(65,811)	
Total adjustments		<u>226,751</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities		123,687

### Cash flows from investing activities:

None	<u>-</u>
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### Cash flows from financing activities:

None	<u>-</u>
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Net increase in cash	123,687
Cash at beginning of year	<u>334,324</u>
Cash at end of the year	<u>\$ 458,011</u>

### SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION

#### Cash paid during the year for:

Interest payments	\$ <u>2,227</u>
Income tax payments	\$ <u>100,757</u>

#### Disclosure of accounting policy:

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Company considers all highly liquid debt instruments purchased with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.



# SENTINEL SECURITIES, INC.

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2008

### NOTE 1- SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Organization and Nature of Business

The Company was incorporated on February 1, 2000. It serves as a broker/dealer in securities. Related commission revenue and expenses are recorded on a trade date basis.

#### Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities as of the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### Allowance for Bad Debts

The Company considers accounts receivable to be fully collectible; accordingly, no allowance for doubtful accounts is required.

#### Fixed Assets

Furniture and equipment are being depreciated using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives, ranging from five to seven years. For the period ended December 31, 2008, depreciation expense was \$2,857.

#### Compensated Absences

Employees of the Company are entitled to paid vacation, paid sick days, and personal days off, depending on job classification, length of service, and other factors. The calculated liability for accrued compensated absences is an immaterial amount, and accordingly, no liability has been recorded in the accompanying financial statements. The company's policy is to recognize the costs of compensated absences when actually paid to employees.

### NOTE 2- NET CAPITAL

As a broker dealer, the Company is subject to the Securities and Exchange Commission's regulations and operating guidelines, which require the Company to maintain a specified amount of net capital as defined, and a ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital as derived, not exceeding 15 to 1. The Company's net capital as computed under 15c3-1, was \$350,048 at December 31, 2008, this exceeded required net capital of \$50,000 by \$300,048. The ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital at December 31, 2008 was 72.8%.

**SENTINEL SECURITIES, INC.**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**DECEMBER 31, 2008**

**NOTE 3- TAXES ON INCOME**

Taxes on income consist of the following:

	Federal	State	Total
Current	\$ 3,441	\$ 387	\$3,828
Deferred	<u>20,200</u>	<u>6,239</u>	<u>26,439</u>
	<u>\$ 23,641</u>	<u>\$ 6,626</u>	<u>\$30,267</u>

Deferred income taxes arise from temporary differences resulting from income and expense items reported for financial accounting and tax purposes in different periods. Deferred tax assets are recorded to reflect deductible temporary differences and operating loss carryforwards while deferred tax liabilities are recorded to reflect taxable temporary differences.

**NOTE 4- CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK**

The Company maintains its checking account in one commercial bank. Cash in this checking account at times exceeded \$250,000. The checking account is secured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) up to \$250,000.

The Company is engaged in various trading and brokerage activities with counterparties. In the event counterparties do not fulfill their obligations, the Company may be exposed to risk. The risk of default depends on the credit worthiness of the counterparty or issuer of the instrument. It is the Company's policy to review, as necessary, the credit standing of each counterparty with which it conducts business.

**NOTE 5- RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

The Company is related to Sentinel Benefits Group and Focus Financial, LLC through common ownership and management. Any transactions with these entities are at arm's length. The Company reimbursed Sentinel Benefits Group for payroll and commission transactions paid from its bank accounts to employees of the Company. The Company also has an expense sharing agreement in place with Sentinel Benefits Group to allocate certain overhead costs to the Company. \$2,452 was due to Sentinel Benefits Group at December 31, 2008.

SENTINEL SECURITIES, INC.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

DECEMBER 31, 2008

NOTE 6- INTANGIBLE ASSETS

On January 2, 2007 the Company was acquired as part of the acquisition of Sentinel Benefits Group by Focus Financial, LLC. As of the date of acquisition, the assets included valuations for intangible assets and goodwill. \$1,361,061 was assigned to customer lists and \$324,062 was assigned to a contract with management with estimated useful lives of 10 and 20 years, respectively. Those intangible assets will be amortized on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives, subject to valuation for impairment on an annual basis. Amortization expense for the year ended December 31, 2008 was \$152,309.

As of December 31, 2008 intangible assets consist of:

	<u>Gross Carrying Amount</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>
Customer Lists	\$1,361,061	\$272,212
Management Contracts	<u>324,062</u>	<u>32,406</u>
Total	<u>1,685,123</u>	<u>304,618</u>

Estimated amortization expense at December 31, 2008 for each of the five succeeding years is as follows:

<u>Year Ending</u> <u>December 31</u>	
2009	\$152,309
2010	152,309
2011	152,309
2012	152,309
2013	<u>152,309</u>
	<u>\$761,545</u>

**SENTINEL SECURITIES, INC.**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008**

SENTINEL SECURITIES, INC.

SCHEDULE I

COMPUTATION OF AGGREGATE INDEBTEDNESS AND NET CAPITAL  
PURSUANT TO RULE 15c3-1

DECEMBER 31, 2008

Total ownership equity from statement of financial condition	\$ 1,180,581
Total nonallowable assets from statement of financial condition	<u>(828,133)</u>
Net capital before haircuts on securities positions	352,448
Haircuts on securities	<u>(2,400)</u>
Net capital	<u><u>\$ 350,048</u></u>
Aggregate indebtedness:	
Total A.I. liabilities from statement of financial condition	<u><u>\$ 254,669</u></u>
Total aggregate indebtedness	<u><u>\$ 254,669</u></u>
Percentage of aggregate indebtedness to net capital	<u><u>72.8%</u></u>
Computation of basic net capital requirement:	
Minimum net capital required (6-2/3% of A.I.)	<u><u>\$ 16,978</u></u>
Minimum dollar net capital requirement of reporting broker or dealer	<u><u>\$ 50,000</u></u>
Net capital requirement	<u><u>\$ 50,000</u></u>
Excess net capital	<u><u>\$ 300,048</u></u>
Excess net capital at 1000%	<u><u>\$ 324,581</u></u>

There were no material differences between the audited and unaudited computation of net capital.

## **SCHEDULE II**

### **SENTINEL SECURITIES, INC.**

#### **INFORMATION RELATING TO POSSESSION OR CONTROL REQUIREMENTS UNDER RULE 15c3-3**

**DECEMBER 31, 2008**

The Company had no items reportable as customers' fully paid securities: (1) not in the Company's possession or control as of the audit date (for which instructions to reduce to possession or control had been issued as of the audit date) but for which the required action was not taken by the Company within the time frames specified under Rule 15c3-3 or (2) for which instructions to reduce to possession or control had not been issued as of the audit date, excluding items arising from "temporary lags which result from normal business operations" as permitted under Rule 15c3-3.

**SCHEDULE III**

**SENTINEL SECURITIES, INC.**

**SCHEDULE OF SEGREGATION REQUIREMENTS AND FUNDS  
IN SEGREGATION FOR CUSTOMERS' REGULATED  
COMMODITY FUTURES AND OPTION ACCOUNTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2008**

The Company claims exemption from the segregation requirements of the Commodities Futures Act since it has no commodity customers as the term is defined in Regulation 1.3(k).

**SCHEDULE IV**

**SENTINEL SECURITIES, INC.**

**COMPUTATION FOR DETERMINATION OF  
RESERVE REQUIREMENTS FOR BROKER/DEALER UNDER  
RULE 15c3-3 OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**DECEMBER 31, 2008**

Sentinel Securities Inc., is exempt from the reserve requirements of Rule 15c3-3 as its transactions are limited, such that they do not handle customer funds or securities, accordingly, the computation for determination of reserve requirements pursuant to Rule 15c3-3 and information relating to the possession or control requirement pursuant to Rule 15c3-3 are not applicable.



# BRACE & ASSOCIATES, PLLC

*Certified Public Accountant*

PMB 271, 44 NASHUA ROAD, SUITE 15

LONDONDERRY, NH 03053-3450

TEL. (603) 889-4243

FAX (603) 882-7371

## **Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Structure Required by SEC Rule 17a-5**

Board of Directors  
Sentinel Securities, Inc.

In planning and performing my audit of the financial statements and supplemental schedules of Sentinel Securities, Inc., (the Company), for the year ended December 31, 2008, I considered its internal control, including control activities for safeguarding securities, in order to determine my auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing my opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on internal control.

Also, as required by rule 17a-5(g)(1) of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), I have made a study of the practices and procedures followed by the Company including tests of such practices and procedures that I considered relevant to the objectives stated in rule 17a-5(g) in making the periodic computations of aggregate indebtedness and net capital under rule 17a-3(a)(11) and for determining compliance with the exemptive provisions of rule 15c3-3. Because the Company does not carry securities accounts for customers or perform custodial functions relating to customer securities, I did not review the practices and procedures followed by the Company in any of the following:

1. Making quarterly securities examinations, counts, verifications, and comparisons
2. Recordation of differences required by rule 17a-13.
3. Complying with the requirements for prompt payment for securities under Section 8 of Federal Reserve Regulation T of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

The management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal control and the practices and procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of controls and of the practices and procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph and to assess whether those practices and procedures can be expected to achieve the SEC's above-mentioned objectives. Two of the objectives of internal control and the practices and procedures are to provide management with reasonable but not absolute assurance that assets for which the Company has responsibility are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Rule 17a-5(g) lists additional objectives of the practices and procedures listed in the preceding paragraph.

Because of inherent limitations in internal control or the practices and procedures referred to above, error or fraud may occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of them to future periods is subject to the risk that they may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of their design and operation may deteriorate.

My consideration of internal control would not necessarily disclose all matters in internal control that might be material weaknesses under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of the specific internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. However, I noted no matters involving internal control, including control activities for safeguarding securities, which I consider to be material weakness as defined above.

I understand that practices and procedures that accomplish the objectives referred to in the second paragraph of this report are considered by the SEC to be adequate for its purposes in accordance with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and related regulations, and that practices and procedures that do not accomplish such objectives in all material respects indicate a material inadequacy for such purposes. Based on this understanding and on my study, I believe that the Company's practices and procedures were adequate at December 31, 2008, to meet the SEC's objectives.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors, management, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. and other regulatory agencies that rely on rule 17a-5(g) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 in their regulation of registered brokers and dealers, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Brace & Associates, PLLC*

Brace & Associates, PLLC  
Certified Public Accountant  
Londonderry, New Hampshire  
February 20, 2009

**BRACE & ASSOCIATES, PLLC**

*Certified Public Accountant*